IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A metal halide lamp comprising a discharge vessel surrounded by an outer envelope with clearance and having a ceramic wall which encloses a discharge space filled with a filling comprising an inert gas, such as xenon (Xe), and an ionizable salt, wherein in said discharge space two electrodes are arranged whose tips have a mutual interspacing so as to define a discharge path between them, characterized in that said ionizable salt comprises NaI, TlI, CaI_2 and X-iodide, wherein X is one or more elements selected from the group comprising rare earth metals.

2. (original) Lamp according to claim 1, wherein X is one or more elements selected from the group comprising Sc, Y, La, Ce, Pr, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Nd.

3. (currently amended) Lamp according to claim 1~~ or 2~~, wherein X is one or more elements selected from the group comprising Ce, Pr, Nd.

4. (currently amended) Lamp according to claim 1~~, 2 or 3~~, wherein the molar percentage ratio X-iodide/(NaI + TlI + CaI_2 + X-iodide) lies between 0 and 10%, in particular between 0,5 and 7%, more in particular between 1 and 6%.

5. (currently amended) Lamp according to claim 1~~, 2, 3 or 4~~, wherein the molar percentage ratio CaI_2/(NaI + TlI + CaI_2 + X-iodide) lies between 10 and 95%.

6. (currently amended) Lamp according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 through 5~~claim 1, wherein the amount of NaI, TlI, CaI_2 and X-iodide lies between 0,001 and 0,5 g/cm^3, in particular between 0,025 and 0,3 g/cm^3.

7. (currently amended) Lamp according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 through 6~~claim 1, emitting light during stable nominal operation having a color temperature T_c above 3500K, wherein the filling of the discharge space also comprises a halide selected from Mn and In.

8. (currently amended) Lamp according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 through 7~~claim 1, wherein the filling comprises Hg.

9. (currently amended) Lamp according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 through 8~~claim 1, wherein the lamp has wall load when in stable operation at rated power of at least 30 W/cm^2.

10. (currently amended) Lamp according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 through 9~~claim 1, wherein at least one electrode extends inside the discharge vessel over a length forming a tip to bottom distance (t-b) between the discharge vessel wall and the electrode tip and which the tip to bottom distance (t-b) is at most 4.5mm.

11. (currently amended) Lamp according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 through 10~~claim 1, wherein the discharge vessel has a rectangular cross section along the discharge path and wherein the tip to bottom distance (t-b) is at most 3.5mm.

12. (currently amended) Lamp according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 through 9~~claim 1, wherein the filling of the discharge vessel is free of Cs.

13. (currently amended) Metal halide lamp to be used in a vehicle headlamp according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 through 6~~claim 1.

14. (currently amended) Method for manufacturing a vehicle headlamp according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 through 6~~claim 1, wherein the vehicle headlamp is provided with a metal halide lamp comprising a discharge vessel surrounded by an outer envelope with clearance and having a ceramic wall which encloses a discharge space filled with a filling comprising an inert gas, such as xenon (Xe), and an ionizable salt, wherein in said discharge space two electrodes are arranged whose tips have a mutual interspacing so as to define a discharge path between them, characterized in that said ionizable salt comprises NaI, TlI, CaI_2 and X-iodide, wherein X is selected from the group comprising rare earth metals.